

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a socket housing holding an array of electrical contacts; and

a load plate rotatably coupled to said housing and rotatable between an open position and a closed position, said load plate including a channel configured to receive and retain an electronic package when said load plate is in said open position, said load plate loading the package into said housing as said load plate is rotated to said closed position.

2. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, further comprising a handle rotatably coupled to said housing to lock said load plate in said closed position.

3. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, further comprising a biasing member coupled between said load plate and said housing to bias said load plate in said open position.

4. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposed sides, each said first and second side extending from a forward load plate latching end to a rearward load plate pivoting end, each said side including a downwardly curved portion that applies a downward load to the package when said load plate is in said closed position.

5. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposite sides, each said first and second sides including a retention hook formed therewith, said retention hooks defining a channel sized to receive

the package, a third side including a package stop, and a fourth side opposite said third side, said fourth side receiving the package.

6. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said load plate includes a load plate stop tab extending therefrom that engages said housing to limit an opening of said load plate to restrict access to said contact array when said load plate is rotated to said open position.

7. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front, back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the package.

8. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front, back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the package, and a stiffener plate surrounding said perimeter walls, said load plate rotatably coupled to a stiffener plate back wall.

9. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front, back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the package, at least one of said perimeter walls including a key for orienting the package with respect to said recess.

10. (Currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said load plate includes a plurality of retention hooks, and said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front,

back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the package, said perimeter walls including clearance cutouts for receiving said retention hooks.

11. (Currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a socket housing holding an array of electrical contacts, said housing including a guide member to guide an electronic package onto said contact array as the package is loaded into said housing; and

a load plate rotatably coupled to said housing and rotatable between an open position and a closed position, said load plate including a channel configured to receive and retain the package when said load plate is in said open position, said load plate loading the package into said housing as said load plate is rotated to said closed position.

12. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises:

a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said array of electrical contacts; and

front, back and side perimeter walls surrounding said base, wherein at least one of said perimeter walls includes an alignment ramp to guide the package onto said contact array.

13. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises:

a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said array of electrical contacts; and

front, back and side perimeter walls surrounding said base, wherein at least one of said perimeter walls includes an alignment ramp to guide the package onto said contact array, said alignment ramp comprising a bevel on an upper edge of said at least one perimeter wall.

14. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, further comprising a handle rotatably coupled to said housing to lock said load plate in said closed position.

15. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, further comprising a biasing member coupled between said load plate and said housing to bias said load plate in said open position.

16. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposed sides, each said first and second side extending from a forward load plate latching end to a rearward load plate pivoting end, each said side including a downwardly curved portion that applies a downward load to the package when said load plate is in said closed position.

17. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposite sides, each said first and second sides including a retention hook formed therewith, said retention hooks defining a channel sized to receive the package, a third side including a package stop, and a fourth side opposite said third side, said fourth side receiving the package.

18. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said load plate includes a load plate stop tab extending therefrom that engages said housing to limit an opening of said load plate to restrict access to said contact array when said load plate is rotated to said open position.

19. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front, back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the LGA package, at least one of said perimeter walls including a key for orienting the package with respect to said recess.

20. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises a base including an array of contact cavities for holding said contact array, said base surrounded by front, back and side perimeter walls that define a recess for receiving the package, and a stiffener plate surrounding said perimeter walls, said load plate rotatably coupled to a stiffener plate back wall.

21. (Currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a socket housing holding an array of electrical contacts, said housing including a guide member to guide an electronic package onto said contact array as the package is loaded into said housing; and

a load plate rotatably coupled to said housing and rotatable between an open position and a closed position, said load plate including a channel configured to receive and retain the package when said load plate is in said open position, and a lip that orients the package with respect to said housing, said load plate loading the package into said housing as said load plate is rotated to said closed position.

22. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 21, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposed sides, each said first and second side extending from a forward load plate latching end to a rearward load plate pivoting end, each said side including a downwardly curved portion that applies a downward load to the package when said load plate is in said closed position.

23. (Original) The electrical connector of claim 21, wherein said load plate comprises first and second opposite sides, each said first and second sides including a retention hook formed therewith, said retention hooks defining a channel sized to receive the package, a third side including a package stop, and a fourth side opposite said third side, said fourth side receiving the package.